



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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THREE PLEAD GUILTY IN ILLEGAL ANABOLIC STEROID DISTRIBUTION RING

(Waco, Texas) **United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that three Coryell County residents pled guilty to various charges stemming from their illegal steroid distribution scheme. On Wednesday, March 5, 2003, Leslie Lee pled guilty in federal district court in Waco to the charge of conspiracy to distribute anabolic steroids and money laundering. Rodney Lee also pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute anabolic steroids. Vicki Lee pled guilty to misprision of a felony, that is she knew about the illegal scheme and failed to report it to authorities.

At the plea hearing, the defendants admitted that had this case proceeded to trial, the government was prepared to prove that from at least September, 1999 and continuing through January 2001, anabolic steroids were sold out of a gym known as "Extreme Fitness" in Gatesville, Coryell County, Texas. Thousands of doses of anabolic steroids, illegal controlled substances, were shipped to the gym, and to the residences of the Lees, by co-conspirators for distribution throughout the United States. Most of these illegal anabolic steroids were shipped from co-conspirators in the Republic of Mexico, Romania, the Dominican Republic and Egypt, after orders were placed via the internet. These shipments were transported via the United States mails and private carriers.

During this same time period, Leslie Lee and co-conspirators Keith A. Williamson and Keith James Bahry assisted in the purchase and distribution of these illegal anabolic steroids. Both have pled guilty to Conspiracy to Distribute Anabolic Steroids in federal district court in Waco and have been sentenced.

In a larger related investigation, an investigator of the Coryell County Sheriff's Office Organized Crime Unit, working in an undercover capacity over the last three years, was able to infiltrate the larger steroid distribution organization through use of the internet. The investigator was able to identify numerous members of this illegal conspiracy throughout the United States and abroad. To date, shipments of illegal anabolic steroids and other controlled substances have been received from suppliers in 32 states and several foreign countries. Other controlled substances distributed by the conspiracy include rohypnol, GHB, valium and cocaine. As a result, agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, working with the Coryell County Sheriff's Office have executed seven federal search warrants, five in Texas, one in Colorado, one in Hawaii and one in Florida.

Using the information supplied by the Coryell County undercover agent, law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and Mexico were able to seize almost 700,000 dosage units of Ketamine, a controlled substance commonly sold in clubs. The organization responsible for the manufacture of this Ketamine produced 80% of the Ketamine distributed nationwide. Almost \$1,000,000 in United States currency was also seized from locations in the United States that were linked to this illegal steroid distribution operation.

The agencies responsible for this investigation were the Coryell County Sheriff's Office Organized Crime Unit, Drug Enforcement Administration-Waco, Texas, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigative Division-Waco, Texas, the Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotic Service-Waco, Texas, and the Agriplex Drug Task Force.

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